

THE SENATE SPOTLIGHT

Georgia State Senate Newsletter



Volume 2, Issue 9

September 2006

GA Senators & staff stand out at NCSL

Legislators and staff attend annual NCSL meeting in Nashville



Last month, several members and staff of the Georgia General Assembly attended the 2006 meeting of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), which was held in Nashville. The Georgia delegation attended sessions on agriculture and rural development, homeland security, federalism, telecommunications and much more. At this year's meeting, members of our General Assembly contributed greatly and stood out at the national level.

Sen. Balfour named to NCSL Executive Committee – one highlight of the Nashville meeting was the appointment of State Senator Don Balfour to the NCSL Executive Committee. The Committee provides a voice for the nation's 7,382 state legislators – who collectively represent all Americans – in the federal system.

Seabaugh Real ID resolution – Sen. Mitch Seabaugh was successful in passing an amendment to NCSL policy on the federal *Real ID Act*. The *Real ID Act*, passed by Congress in May 2005, requires minimum document standards for driver licenses and identification cards to include full legal name, date of birth, gender, driver license or ID card number, a digital photograph of the person, address of principle residence, person's signature, physical security features to prevent tampering, counterfeiting, or duplication, and to possess a common machine-readable technology with defined minimum data standards. The Seabaugh amendment urges Congress to repeal the *Real ID Act* if it does not provide full funding or guidelines under which to implement the plan.

NCSL session highlights – Lawmakers and staff members took part in sessions on bio fuels and biotechnologies, economic development, tax reform issues, state budgets, redistricting, healthcare, eminent domain and many other areas of interest.

Spotlight on... Good luck Amanda and Jack!

We'd like to take this opportunity to bid a fond farewell to longtime Senate staff members **Amanda Seals** and **Jack Holt**. Amanda left the President Pro Tempore's Office recently to accept a position in the Governor's Office as Communications Director for the Department of Community Health. She has been a key component in Senate operations for years now as Chief of Staff.



In addition, we must extend our best wishes to Jack Holt, Deputy Director of the Senate Press Office. Jack has been in the Press Office for three years, and he has played an integral role in bringing the Office up to speed with today's technologies. Last year, Jack's diligence led to the launch of the new Georgia Senate web site, which has rapidly become an important tool for Senators and staff alike. Jack and Amanda have been great friends to us and they will be missed by all!

Spotlight on... New faces in the Senate

Jason Fleury, Human Resources



Jason M. Fleury has been hired as Human Resources Director for the Senate. Prior to his current position, Jason served for over six years as Project Coordinator with the University of Georgia's Carl Vinson Institute of Government. In that capacity, he participated in the completion of executive searches and in the development and implementation of classification and compensation plans for cities, counties and state organizations. Jason was part of the team that constructed the new pay plan for the Senate in early 2006. He is a graduate of the University of Georgia and enjoys spending his free time with friends, playing golf and tennis, watching movies, reading and attending UGA sporting events.

Josh Willis, Majority Leader's Office

Josh Willis has joined the Georgia Senate as the Chief of Staff for Majority Leader Tommie Williams. Josh has a strong background in government relations, policy analysis and research. Previously, he started his own business in the software development industry. Josh is skilled at analyzing legislation, problem-solving and providing positive guidance to legislators.



Most recently, Josh worked for Nationwide Insurance as a government relations associate. He began his career in Washington, D.C. in 2004, in a professional internship with the Witherspoon Fellowship. He then returned to Georgia where he took a position as social policy analyst and helped lobby for the successful passage of important legislation. Josh is a graduate of the University of Georgia, where he earned his BA in philosophy.

Marshall Guest, Office of the President Pro Tempore



Marshall Guest recently has come aboard as Special Assistant to President Pro Tempore Eric Johnson. Guest, who has worked at the State Capitol for a number of years, previously worked in the Senate Majority Leader's office and was an aide to Senate Transportation Committee Chairman Bill Stephens, where he scheduled and planned weekly committee meetings and met with constituents. Marshall has extensive experience in dealing with constituent concerns, which makes him well-suited for his new role.

A native of Lithonia, Marshall received his BA in history and anthropology from the University of Georgia. In his spare time, he volunteers with the Georgia Center for Children.

Employee Spotlight on... Bridget Holsey



What is your current job and/or assignments?

I am currently working in the Internet Technology (IT) Department as a Computer Support Engineer. In the upcoming months, I will be the administrator of the new VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) phone system. I am sure that many of you are now familiar with VoIP phone systems because of the recent phone pilot program. My main responsibility will be to focus on administering VoIP in all of the offices in and around the Capitol. Some of my other current responsibilities include troubleshooting desktop computer and network problems, inventory, installing and/or repairing hardware and software issues, including scanners, printers, fax machines, copiers and

projectors. My goal is to always reduce the stress levels of the end users by adopting a cooperative attitude and positive approach to every task and assignment.

How did you end up at the General Assembly?

After moving to Georgia from New Jersey and completing my schooling in Network Technology, my husband, who is employed with the State as a computer programmer, saw a job listing for a position with the General Assembly and thought that I would enjoy working for the state of Georgia. I submitted my resume and began working for the General Assembly back in 2001.

Tell me a little about your background. Birthplace, brothers and sisters, etc.

I was born in Philadelphia, PA, and I was raised in Lawnside, NJ. I am the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Waverly and Dorothy Roberts. I also have an older brother, Waverly Jr., who resides here in the Atlanta area. I moved here after marrying my husband Blanton in 1997. We currently reside in Ellenwood.

Tell us about your hobbies and/or what you enjoy doing away from work...

I enjoy using the computer at home for my creative time, which includes arts and crafts, reading, and creating short stories and poems. I also like to visit historic sites/places; I have a great love of art and foreign movies (with subtitles of course). Overall, I enjoy spending time with my family and friends most of all.

The General Assembly can be an exciting place to work. What are some of the aspects of your position that you enjoy the most?

I really enjoy working with the members of the General Assembly, administrative assistants and staff, and the IT team. Our IT team is always looking for better ways to improve the speed, reliability and efficiency of all computer operations. It gives me great satisfaction when I know that the end users are happy with what our team has implemented.

Senate Budget's Spotlight on... Monthly numbers



The net revenue collected by the Department of Revenue for August 2006 (FY 07) was \$1,305,342,000.

This is an increase of 0.6 percent when compared to the revenue collected in August 2005 (FY 06), which was \$1,296,959,000. The percentage increase year-to-date for FY 07 compared to FY 06 is 6.5 percent.

Senate Spotlight on . . . September Birthdays



HAPPY BIRTHDAY to . . .



Senator Doug Stoner
Secretary of the Senate Robert Ewing
Audrey Lee- Leg. Assistant, Majority Leader's Office
Alex Azarian- Senate Research Office
Betty Conner- Legislative Assistant
Jessie Thompson- Secretary of the Senate's Office
Larry Mauldin- Fiscal Office
Chris Bailey- Senate Press Office
Tarika Jackson- Legislative Assistant
Jeff Lanier- Legislative Counsel
Ginny Powell- Senate Research Office
Karen Thompson- Legislative Assistant
Wayne Allen- Legislative Counsel
Happy Belated Birthday to...
Anita Williams- Legislative Assistant

September 29th
September 9th
September 1st
September 3rd
September 9th
September 19th
September 18th
September 28th
September 15th
September 13th
September 3rd
September 14th
September 26th

August 31st

Mark your calendars!!!



Secretary of the Senate Bob Ewing will host a "Backyard Bash" for all Senators and staff members at his Avondale home on October 14th at 5:00 p.m. For more information or to RSVP, contact the Senate Press Office at (404) 656-0028.

The Senate Spotlight is a product of the Senate Press Office. If you have a suggestion, a person you would like to nominate for the Employee Spotlight or a Senate-related article to contribute, please contact our office at 404.656.0028.